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MAR 28 2007

Application No. 10/623,433  
Attorney Docket No. 1451-0001

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 36-69, of which claims 36-46 and 61-69 have been withdrawn from consideration. The remaining claims 47-60 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 36-69 have been canceled and new claims 70-89 have been added.

The Examiner found that claims 36-69 recited five separate inventions as set forth below and required that the Applicant elect one of the inventions for prosecution in the present application.

Group I: Claims 36-45, drawn to a non-linear amplifier, classified in class 330, subclass 291.

Group II: Claim 46, drawn to a signal processing circuit, classified in class 381, subclass 98.

Group III: Claims 47-60, drawn to a signal processing circuit having a user set gain level, classified in class 381, subclass 102.

Group IV: Claims 61-66, drawn to a tone control circuit, classified in class 381, subclass 101.

Group V: Claims 67-69, drawn to a switch for a signal processing circuit, classified in class 381, subclass 123.

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During a teleconference with the Examiner, the Applicant selected the invention of Group III for prosecution in the present application. Also, because claims 36-46 and 61-69 have been withdrawn from consideration, the Applicant has proceeded to cancel those claims in this Amendment.

Additionally, the Applicant has encountered additional prior art relating to the invention of Group III. The additional prior art is included in an Information Disclosure Statement that will be filed shortly. Based on the additional prior art, the Applicant has determined that it would be best to add additional claim limitations to the claims of Group III in order to more clearly set forth the point of novelty.

However, the additional claim limitations to be added to the claims of Group III are somewhat sizeable. Consequently, in the interests of clarity, claims 47-60, which were originally identified as directed to the invention of Group III have been canceled and new claims 70-89 have been added. New claims 70-89 are also directed to the invention of Group III and consequently are respectfully submitted to be eligible for examination in the present application.

Claims 47-49, 51-53, and 55-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Desai, U.S. Pat. No. 4,031,319. However, claims 47-49, 51-53, and 55-60 have been canceled in favor of new claims 70-89. Consequently, the present rejection is respectfully submitted to be moot.

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Claims 50 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Desai in view of Pritchard, U.S. Pat. No. 6,631,195. However, claims 50 and 54 have been canceled in favor of new claims 70-89. Consequently, the present rejection is respectfully submitted to be moot.

FROM MCANDREWS, HELD, & MALLOY

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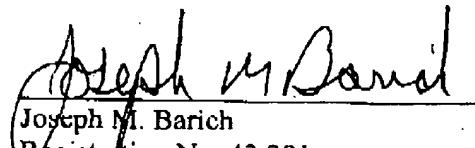
**CONCLUSION**

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 28, 2007

  
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